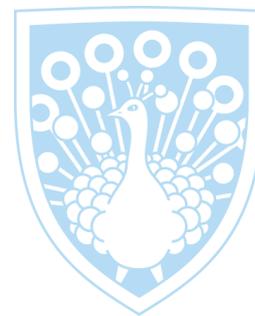


**Great Tew School Newsletter**  
**Issue 170**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014**



Dear parents,

The children have all come back to school full of energy and enthusiasm after their Christmas holidays, ready to learn and to have fun. It was lovely to see them rushing in on Monday morning, keen to get back to school and to see their friends. We have all been busy and the seemingly never-ending rain hasn't stopped us getting outside for some fresh air and exercise.

## **News from the Classrooms....**

### **Reception**

The children have been thinking about New Year and why we make resolutions at the start of the new year. They have all thought very honestly about themselves and what they could get better at and all of them have come up with their own resolutions. I wonder if they have shared them with you yet? Perhaps you have noticed a difference?!

### **Years 1 & 2**

This week's sound of the week has been /ir/ as in "bird". We looked at all the different spellings of /ir/ such as er (fern), ur (burnt), ir (shirt) and ear (pearl, earth). In our English lessons we made delicious jam sandwiches and then wrote instructions for someone to follow. We made sure we used numbered steps, time connectives, bossy verbs and excellent punctuation in our writing. In maths we have been counting in patterns of 2, 5 and 10 and have looked at patterns of numbers if we start counting in 10 from a number other than zero. We have made a flying start with our topic 'World Kitchen'; ask your child to sing you the 'continents' song! Many children have brought in fruit and veg from around the world and we have located its origin on the globe, on a wall map and in an atlas.

### **Years 3 & 4**

The children have started their topic on Water, and have enjoyed some creative poetry writing on the theme of water, finishing, at the end of the week, with some descriptive haikus on "waves". In science, they have started learning about forces, thinking about pushes and pulls and the effect of gravity.

### **Years 5 & 6**

Do you know who Mike Lazaridis or Markus Persson is? If not, then ask Omer, Gus, Rhianna, George and Emily and they will tell you that one invented an amazing electronic game and the other invented the Blackberry (the phone that is!) They along with the rest of the class have been eagerly researching the lives of modern electronic inventors and pioneers in preparation to write a biography. The children were asked to choose an amazing electronic invention which interested them, and to research its clever inventor! They found interesting facts and fascinating anecdotes to go in their biographies. Talking of brains... we have also been testing ours to the limit this week in Maths by getting to grips with long and short multiplication! Collectively we know a variety of strategies but we have been focussing on making the traditional, standard, written method our preferred method.

## Stars of the Week

A very big well done to the following children, who are our first “stars” of 2014.

<b>Reception:</b>	Lucia
<b>Year 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Lily
<b>Year 3 &amp; 4:</b>	Eliza
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6:</b>	Tilly

## Mud!

Those of you that have children in Reception and Year 1 and 2 cannot fail to have noticed our new “water feature” as you walk around the side of the building. The children are begging me to make it a permanent feature of the playground and have had a lot of fun splashing around in the stream that is currently flowing along the path. Whilst the mud is grim, we are at least able to get the children outside with their wellies to run around and have some fresh air. We continue to talk to the estate and the District Council about longer term solutions to our drainage issue but considering the terrible flooding that many schools and homes have had to contend with over the last few weeks, perhaps we should consider ourselves very fortunate. I know that one or two parents have kindly offered to come along with their brooms to help sweep the mud off the paths and playground; I am currently talking to Mel Tosh about this (mother of Monty in Year 1) and more news will follow.

## Staff News

I have this week received sad news that two of our Teaching Assistants will be leaving us at Half-Term.

Mrs Sutton, who works two and a half days a week in Year 5 and 6 will be retiring after some 25 years working at Great Tew. Whilst this is very sad news for all of us, as she is a much loved and valued member of staff, I don't think any of us would doubt that Mrs Sutton has earned her retirement! She has supported countless children and families as they pass through the school and those of you that know her will know how much affection and loyalty she has for the school. Mary has been on the brink of retiring for a little while now and she feels the time has now come to spend quality time with her husband, daughter and grandchildren. We will all miss Mary, who with her reliability, positivity and sense of fun is a wonderful member of our staff team – I think she might miss us a little bit too!

Miss Wallis, who works at the end of the week in Reception, will also be leaving us at Half-Term. Miss Wallis has been with us for 5½ years and all of her three children were at Great Tew. Anna is a fantastic member of the team, and we are all very sad that she will be leaving us. We are delighted, in fact, that she has been with us as long as she has, as some of you will know that she and her family moved from Middle Barton to Berkshire last Summer. Since then, Anna has been driving to and from near Newbury each day, a journey in excess of an hour each way. I know that Anna is very sad to be leaving us and we will all miss her enormously.

The process of appointing staff to take on these roles has begun and I will let you know when I have further news to report.

## Welcome

This term we welcome two new Teaching Assistants to our school, Mrs Hall, who is working in Reception and Year 1&2 and Ms Furnivall, who is working in Year 5&6. We are pleased to have them as part of the team and hope that they will be very happy here.

## Bad Weather – Information re School Closure

In the case of bad weather, we will of course endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible. However, in the event that we do have to close the school, we will let you know via a text message and will put information on the school website at <http://www.greattewschool.co.uk/>. We will also inform BBC Radio Oxford VHF/FM 95.2 and will contact the county council, who will post information on their website <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures>.

## Club News

We are pleased to have the following after-school clubs running this term.

	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Day/time</b>	<b>Starting on</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Recorder Club	Y2-Y6	Tues 3.15-4.30	Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£2 per week payable per week (cash)
Chess Club	Y2-Y6	Tues 3.15-4.15	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£2 per week payable per week (cash)
Chillin' Club	All classes	Tues 3.15-4.30	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£2 per week payable per week (cash)
Textiles Club	Y4-Y6	Weds 3.15-4.30	Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£25 per term payable by cheque in advance
Thursday Dance	Y1 -Y6	Thurs 3.15-4.30	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£3 per week payable by cheque in advance (£18 for 6 weeks). No Club on January 30 <sup>th</sup> .
Football	All classes	Thurs 3.15-4.30	Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£4 per week payable by cheque to Arsenal Soccer Schools in advance (11 weeks). Please see sign up slips on main notice board.
Friday Dance	Pre-School & Reception	Fri 3.15-4.15	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Please speak to Dawn Wilson-Fry via Pre-School

## Breakfast Club

In addition to the after school clubs outlined above, we also have Breakfast Club running again this term through Oxford Active. Please do make sure you make use of this facility; once registered it is possible to use the club on an ad-hoc basis. To register your children please go to:

<http://www.activeafterschoolclubs.co.uk/search/?county=3&clubvenue=null>

Wishing you all a very happy weekend, and may 2014 be a happy, healthy and successful one for us all.



**Great Tew**  
Breakfast Club

£4.00 Per Session

Register Online  
[www.oxfordactive.co.uk](http://www.oxfordactive.co.uk)  
To Book Phone  
01865 594 325

The advertisement features a blue background with a yellow banner at the top. It includes images of a bowl of cereal and a sandwich. A purple box at the bottom right contains contact information for online registration and phone booking.

Mrs Lucy Miles